

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 14, 21, 23, 24 and 28-40 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 28 are amended; and claims 32-40 are added.

I. The Claims Satisfy all Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 6 for informalities. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that "constant potential line" is not defined or shown in the figures. This objection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 recites "the second conductive layer being electrically connected to a constant-potential line." The literal support for this claim recitation is found in the specification at page 7, lines 3-4. The specification discloses that in the electrode-optical device of the present invention, the second conductive layer may be electrically connected to a constant-potential line.

The specification, at page 37, clarifies that the second barrier layer 80b is preferably electrically connected to the capacitor line 3b or other constant-potential lines (page 37, lines 3-4). In such a case, the specification, at page 37, further discloses that the second barrier layer 80b is electrically connected to the capacitor line 3b through the contact hole 8c for each pixel (page 37, lines 11-13). Those disclosed features are clearly shown at least in Figures 3 and 6-8.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 satisfies all formal requirements. Withdrawal of the claim objection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 14, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,006 to Sato et al.; and claims 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,966,193 to Zhang et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Sato et al. does not constitute "prior art." The effective prior date for Sato et al. is October 27, 1999. However, Sato et al. does not precede the priority date of December 28, 1998

of the present application. Accordingly, a verified English-language translation of the priority document (JP Application No. 10-373588) for the present application is provided to perfect the application's claim to foreign priority and to antedate Sato et al.

For at least these reasons, Sato et al. is not a valid prior art. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9, 14, 21, 23, 24 and 28-40 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
English-language translation of
JP Application No. 10-373588

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